

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Vincent E. Bryan et al.
Filed : July 9, 2003
For : SPINAL NEEDLE SYSTEM

Docket No. : 170134.401C1
Date : July 9, 2003

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents:

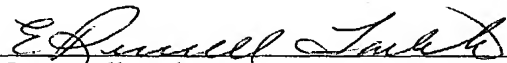
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97 through 1.98, applicants wish to make known to the Patent and Trademark Office the references set forth on the attached form PTO-1449 (copies of the cited references, as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, are enclosed). As to any reference supplied, applicants do not admit that it is "prior art" under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103, and specifically reserve the right to traverse or antedate any such reference, as by a showing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or other method. Although the aforesaid references are made known to the Patent and Trademark Office in compliance with applicants' duty to disclose all information they are aware of which is believed relevant to the examination of the above-identified application, applicants believe that their invention is patentable.

We hereby certify that each of the references set forth on the attached form PTO-1449 was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Please acknowledge receipt of this Information Disclosure Statement and kindly make the cited references of record in the above-identified application.

Applicants believe this Information Disclosure Statement has been timely filed, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee due by way of this Information Disclosure Statement to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,
Vincent E. Bryan et al.
Seed Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC


E. Russell Tarleton
Registration No. 31,800

ERT:aep

Enclosures:

Postcard
Form PTO-1449
Cited References (5)

701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6300
Seattle, Washington 98104-7092
Phone: (206) 622-4900
Fax: (206) 682-6031

C:\NrPortbl\iManage\ATHENAP\397254_1.DOC

| | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| FORM PTO-1449 (REV.7-80) | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | ATTY. DOCKET NO. 170143.401C1 | APPLICATION NO. |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Use several sheets if necessary) | | APPLICANTS Vincent E. Bryan et al. | |
| | | FILING DATE July 9, 2003 | GROUP ART UNIT |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|----------------------|----|-----------------|----------|-------------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
| | AA | 5,129,906 | 07/14/92 | Ross et al. | 606 | 77 | |
| | AB | 5,398,861 | 03/21/95 | Green | 227 | 175 | |
| | AC | 5,662,673 | 09/02/97 | Kieturakis | 606 | 185 | |
| | AD | 5,674,237 | 10/07/97 | Ott | 606 | 185 | |
| | AE | 5,730,756 | 03/24/98 | Kieturakis et al. | 606 | 190 | |
| | AF | | | | | | |
| | AG | | | | | | |
| | AH | | | | | | |
| | AI | | | | | | |
| | AJ | | | | | | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | TRANSLATION | |
|--|----|-----------------|------|---------|-------------|----|
| | | | | | YES | NO |
| | AK | | | | | |
| | AL | | | | | |
| | AM | | | | | |
| | AN | | | | | |
| | AO | | | | | |

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

| | | |
|--|----|--|
| | AP | |
| | AQ | |
| | AR | |

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
| * EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not criteria is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant(s). | |